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CONGRESSMAN JEROME WALDIE TO SPEAK AT PREMIERE OF
MINERAL KING DOCUMENTARY FILM.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LOS ANGELES - Congressman Jerome Waldie will be guest speaker at the premiere of the Mineral King documentary film, Saturday, January 22 at 8:30 P.M. in Bovard Auditorium at the University of Southern California. At the premiere, which is free to the public, the Congressman will discuss the Preservation of the Environment and the Land-use Policies of the United States Forest Service.

Congressman Waldie has long been interested in the Mineral King issue and conservation, in general. After a recent back-pack trip in the Sierras he declared, "My concern that these opportunities to leave civilization are rapidly disappearing was intensified by this trip." And he concluded, "Access to Wilderness Areas must never be 'improved'. Roads into Wilderness Areas - Tramways - are abominations. There must be retained areas in the country to which people may repair for solitude - for reflection - for rebuilding of their spirit."

The production of the Mineral King film came about as a result of the current controversy as to whether Mineral King, in the Sequoia National Game Refuge should be developed as a major ski resort. In 1965, the Forest Service announced its intention to permit a $3 million development at Mineral King. Since then, the project has ballooned to $35 million. The question of whether the Sierra Club, which is attempting to halt the project, has a legitimate right to sue regarding Mineral King is now before the Supreme Court. A decision is expected soon.

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Many people familiar with Mineral King had long felt a film would be invaluable for communicating the complex issues of this controversy. The opportunity arose when members of the Sierra Club Task Force on Mineral King met Jim Rascoe and Bruton Peterson, students at USC in the Department of Cinema. Jim and Bruton were interested in Mineral King, and the possibility of producing a film; thus the project was launched.

"It proved a much bigger undertaking than anyone had expected," Jim said. "By the time we finished, we had interviewed such people as Stewart Udall and Martin Litton, a director of the Sierra Club, and had obtained an independent highway engineer to study the proposed new road to Mineral King." Bruton and Jim searched the state for old historic photographs of the area, which were incorporated in the film. They also raised thousands of dollars in nickles and dimes to pay for film and materials. Mr. Burgess Meredith was persuaded to be the narrator, and Phillip Lambro to compose and conduct the music.

The premiere will be preceeded by a banquet at USC's Town and Gown at which Congressman Waldie will be a guest of honor.

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